

HEALTH
ADVISORY
1949



STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for

1 9 4 9

Austin Priestman, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Univ. Edin.)

To the Chairman, Mrs. Field, and Gentlemen of the
Startforth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Field and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report
for the year ended 31st December 1949.

The general health of the District for the year under review would appear to be good; the infantile mortality rate, one of the surest indices of the health or otherwise of a district, is very low and highly satisfactory; maternal mortality has been nil and is, therefore, highly satisfactory also; another satisfactory feature is the absence of still-births. The deaths-rate from all causes is also satisfactory; seventeen of the deaths being of the ages of 55/75 and twenty five over 75 years; the chief cause of death is, as usual, heart disease; there has only been one recorded death from cancer and one from tuberculosis; among infectious diseases there is little requiring comment; successful vaccinations and immunisations are slightly higher than during the previous year.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health - W. Ferguson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
18th January - 25th June 1949.

Austin Priestman - M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., (Univ. Edin.)
appointed 18th July 1949.

Sanitary Inspector - T. Ashcroft, C.R.S.I., Ass.M.Inst.San.Engs.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres	...	97,630
Resident Population	...	3,920
Number of inhabited houses	...	1,294
Rateable value at 1st April 1949	...	£ 54,581
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£ 223
Rate in £ levied at 1st April 1949	...	7/1

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 71, as against 85 in 1948, a decrease of 14. The birth rates comparison shows that the rate for the District is in excess of that for the rest of England and Wales, though less than the rate for the District in 1948.

Birth Rates Comparisons.

	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Still Births</u>	
Startforth Rural District 1948	21.02	.00	per
Startforth Rural District 1949	18.11	.00	1,000
England and Wales 1949	16.70	.39	est. pop.

Analysis of Births.

<u>Live Births.</u>	1949		1948	
	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	36	31	41	41
Illegitimate	.	4	.	3
<u>Still Births.</u>	NIL		NIL	

DEATHS Maternal Mortality. As in 1948 there was no case of a woman dying in, or in consequence of childbirth in the District, this again compares favourably with the rest of England and Wales as the maternal death rate for the latter in 1949 is .98 per 1,000 total births.

Infantile Mortality. The number of infants (under 1 year) who died during 1949 was 1, a most substantial decrease on the rate in 1948 and a very favourable comparison with the rate for the rest of England and Wales for 1949.

<u>Infantile Mortality Comparisons</u>	<u>per 1,000 live births</u>
Startforth Rural District 1948	47.06
Startforth Rural District 1949	14.08
England and Wales 1949	32.00

Analysis of Deaths, Sexes and Ages.

1. Atelectasis: Prematurity. Female. 8 Hours.

Deaths from all Causes. During 1949 there were 48 deaths from all causes in the District, as against 54 in 1948; though the rate is slightly higher than that for the rest of England and Wales it is noted that 17 deaths were in the 55/75 age group and 25 in the over 75 years age group.

<u>Death rates comparisons</u>		<u>Death Rate per 1,000 population</u>
Startforth Rural District 1948	...	13.36
Startforth Rural District 1949	...	12.24
England and Wales 1949	...	11.70
<u>Causes of all Deaths and Sexes.</u>		

	1949		1948	
	M	F	M	F
Whooping Cough	.	.	1	.
T/B of Respiratory System	1	.	1	.
Cancer of Breast	.	.	.	1
Cancer of all other sites	.	1	2	2
Measles	.	.	.	1
Diabetes	1	.	.	1
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	6	7	5	3
Heart Diseases	7	10	12	7
Other Diseases of Circulatory system	3	4	.	1
Pneumonia	.	.	1	.
Other Respiratory Diseases	.	1	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	.	.	.	1
Other Digestive Diseases	.	.	1	.
Nephritis	1	1	.	3
Premature Birth	.	.	2	.
Congenital Malformation	.	1	1	.
Suicide	.	.	.	1
Road Traffic Accidents	3	.	.	.
Other Violent Causes	.	.	1	.
All Other Causes	1	.	2	2
	<u>23</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>24</u>

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes and rate per 1,000 population.

No. of Deaths		Cause of Death	Rate per 1,000 pop.	
1949	1948		1949	1948
1	5	Cancer	.255	1.24
1	3	Respiratory (not T/B)	.255	.74
17	19	Heart Diseases	4.335	4.70
1	1	T/B Pulmonary	.255	.245
.	.	T/B Non-pulmonary	.00	.00
7	1	Other Circulatory Diseases	1.78	.245
13	8	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	3.32	1.98
<u>40</u>	<u>37</u>		<u>10.200</u>	<u>9.150</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were 44 cases of infectious or notifiable diseases reported during 1949, as against 34 in 1948.

<u>Analysis and Comparisons</u>		<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	11	2
Measles	...	19	29
Acute Pneumonia	...	5	2
Erysipelas	...	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	...	1	.
Whooping Cough	...	6	.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	1	.
		<u>44</u>	<u>34</u>

TUBERCULOSIS. There were no notifications of Tuberculosis during the year, as against 3 cases notified in 1948; During the year 1949 a Male, aged 30 years, and having Pulmonary T/B was transferred into the District.

Deaths from T/B. One death from T/B occurred during the year.

Analysis. 1 Death, Male, aged 51 years,
Cause: Anaemia due to Haemorrhage from duodenum ulcer.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATIONS. Records held show that there were 45 vaccinations carried out during the year, as against 41 in 1948 and 25 immunisations in 1949, as against 14 in 1948.

<u>Age Groups and Comparisons</u>		<u>1949</u>		<u>1948</u>	
	0 - 5 yrs.	Over 5 yrs.	:	0 - 5 yrs.	Over 5 yrs.
Successful Vaccinations	31	14	:	35	8
Complete Course of Immunisations	18	7	:	13	1

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946.

- Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
 " 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
 " 24. Health Visiting.
 " 25. Home Nursing.

Four District Nurses/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above four sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District, at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and which is attended by a local practitioner and the District Nurse for that Area; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

Section 27. Ambulance Service. The North Riding County Council provide this service by arrangement with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade who have two vehicles stationed at Richmond. This service and the Hospital Car Service, under the Women's Voluntary Services is shared with three other Authorities.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice given by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors, and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council and during 1949 5 cases received service; 4 cases of domiciliary confinement and 1 case of illness of housewife, the five cases received a total of 343 hours service.

Section 51. Mental Health. No Committee in the District, but no cases arose during the year.

Dental Services. This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council.

National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47. No cases removed during the year.

The remainder of this report was compiled by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. T. Ashcroft and I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to him and his staff for their co-operation in the daily duties of the Department and for the great assistance in the preparation of this report.

Total number of inspections made	141
Nuisances found	29
Notices served - Statutory	26
" - Informal	27

Rural Housing Survey. The following number of houses have been inspected to the end of the year, namely, Seventy-six.

The result of the Categories being as follows:-

1. Satisfactory in all respects	12
2. Minor defects	54
3. Repairs or structural alterations	9
4. Suitable for Housing (Rural Workers)...	45
Acts.	
5. Unfit	1

Closet Accommodation. The majority of the houses within the District are on the pail or privy system. Until the Parishes are properly sewered, and provided with adequate water supplies conversions cannot be entertained. Schemes are in hand for this work to be carried out.

Number of new W. C's erected	28
Number of Pails converted to W. C's	5
Number of Privies converted to W. C's..	5
Number of Privies converted to Pails ..	12

Scavenging. Public Scavenging is in operation in the following Parishes:-

Startforth, Lartington, Cotherstone, Romaldkirk, Mickleton, Helwick, Rokeby, Bowes, Boldron, Hutton Magna, Ovington and Barningham.

Two Karrier Scavenging vehicles with a driver/loader, and a second loader employed on each are in operation. The refuse from Burntall Camp is also dealt with. The refuse is deposited at three tips situated at Mickleton, Rokeby, and Barningham. These tips are semi-controlled, and a man employed for this purpose. The collection and disposal is satisfactory.

Sewerage. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. At present there are works of sewerage and sewage disposal in the following Parishes:-

Cotherstone, Startforth, Bowes, Romaldkirk, Barningham and Mickleton.

Post War Schemes. During the past five years the Council have prepared the following schemes:-

<u>Parish</u>		<u>Estimated cost on 1939 prices</u> £
Barningham	...	3140
Boldron	...	2270
Bowes	...	3520
Hutton Magna	...	3310
Lartington	...	2950
Mickleton	...	5570
Ovington	...	2780
Romaldkirk	...	1550
Startforth	...	6520

Cotherstone. The new disposal works are now in operation.

Barningham. 150 lineal yards of 6" sewer with 3 man-holes laid.

Startforth. 62 lineal yards of 6" sewer with 1 man-hole laid.

Ovington. 350 lineal yards of 6" stone-ware sewers with 12 man-holes and disposal works have been constructed.

Water supply. 1. The water supply of the district has been satisfactory (a) in quantity and (b) in quality.

2. Our main supply is from the Tees Valley Water Board and bacteriological examinations are made by them. I understand the results are with the Board.

3. The various supplies within our district are not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

4. No action necessary for any form of contamination.

Particulars of the number of dwelling-house and the number of the population supplied from public water mains:-

(a) direct to the houses.

(b) by means of stand pipes.

Parish	By piped supply from under-takings	By private supply piped into houses	By Stand pipe	By pump inside house	By pump outside house	By outside springs	Total
Barningham	22	2	31	6	2	.	63
Barforth	.	6	.	8	6	10	30
Boldron	8	7	16	2	2	3	38
Bowes	127	11	5	1	4	5	153
Brignall	.	7	.	4	4	7	22
Cotherstone	94	26	.	.	3	2	125
Egglesstone	.	5	.	.	.	4	9
Abbey	.	11	.	3	3	2	19
Gilmonby	.	21	.	5	3	14	43
Holwick	.	3	.	1	.	.	4
Hope	.	32	.	3	9	6	50
Hunderthwaite	.	3	29	.	1	.	36
Hutton Magna	33	5	.	3	2	1	44
Lartington	.	31	.	10	4	11	56
Lunedale	59	30	.	18	47	2	156
Mickleton	30	3	.	4	.	.	40
Ovington	.	14	.	8	4	10	36
Rokeby	45	13	.	3	4	6	71
Romaldkirk	.	3	.	3	5	6	17
Scargill	110	25	.	8	8	2	153
Startforth	.	19	.	6	10	4	39
Wycliffe	531	280	81	96	121	95	1204
Totals							

Infectious Diseases. I have investigated the following number of infectious diseases.

Scarlet Fever 9 : Para-typhoid 1.

All rooms occupied by patients have been efficiently fumigated with formalin gas.

Factory and Workshops Act.

We have on our Register 4 Factories, and 18 Workshops.
We have no Outworkers.

Number of Inspections 15.

Number of defects found 5.

Inspection and Supervision of Food. We have five private slaughter houses licenced by the Council. No slaughtering takes place at the present time within our area, except pigs that are for personal food. Inspection takes place when notice of killing is notified.

The undermentioned food was surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

59½ lbs. of Butter: 42 lbs. of Sugar.

Rodent Control. The part-time Rodent Officer has carried out the following work during the year:-

Domestic premises treated	...	5
<u>Sewers.</u> No. of manholes baited	...	203
No. of manholes showing takes		71
No. of other poison baits laid		542

The tips within the area have, during the year been given treatment.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. The above regulations came into force on the 1st October 1949, and from that date the responsibility for keeping the register of Dairy Farmers and Dairy Farms rests with the Ministry of Agriculture. Our Register was forwarded to the County Milk Regulations Officer.

Milk (Special) Designation (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations 1949.

Under Section 4 (I) of Part II of the above mentioned Regulations the responsibility for the issuing of pasteurisers' and sterilisers' licences will, from the 1st October 1949, be transferred to the Food and Drug Authorities, i.e. the County Council.

Austin Priestman

Medical Officer of Health.

